Proposals made by India in G-15 Summit at Cairo

*40. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI S.M. KRISHNA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India participated in the meeting of Group of 15 developing countries (G-15) Summit held recently in Cairo which aimed at serious official-level interaction between the rich nations' club of G-8 and the middle income nations of G-15.

(b) if so, what proposals were put forward by India before G-15 Summit particularly for a common stand on cross border terrorism and a united stand by the developing countries on WTO issues; and

(c) what are the details of discussion held and results achieved particularly in response to India's suggestions given at Cairo Summit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Vice-President of India led the Indian delegation at the Summit which was preceded by meetings of Trade Ministers and Foreign Ministers on 8th and 9th May, 1998 and of Senior Officials on 7th May, 1998.

(b) On cross-border terrorism, India has called upon G-15 to work together to mobilies international cooperation and practical global action to defeat the designs of international terrorism. On WTO issues, India emphasised that the pursult of liberalisation which has become WTO's reason to exist, was not an end in itself and must meet the core objectives of rapid development, welfare gains and best returns for the extant and potential resources of developing countries. Towards this end, India submitted proposals outlining developing countries' concerns and possible ways of ensuring special and differential treatment to developing countries in all aspects of the WTO agenda nd its implementation. India has offered to host a G-15 inter-governmental meeting on this later this year. India also took up the issue of fair reward for the biogenetic resources of developing countries.

(c) The Eighth Summit focussed on two major themes, viz, financial crisis in East and South East Asia and Multilateral Trading System including the WTO Ministerial Conference at Geneva. The Summit examined the different perspectives and called for comprehensive and urgent action in preventing the spread of the financial turmoil in East and South East Asia. On the issue of the multilateral trading system, the Summit focussed on developing country positions on various matters that are likely to be taken up at the Geneva meeting as well as a positive agenda for the developing countries. The Summit called upon developed country partners to take appropriate measures for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of the biogenetic resources of developing countries and develop measures to implement their rights. The Summit strongly condemned all kinds of terrorism, their perpetrators and all those who support them under whatever guise and called for enhanced international cooperation to prevent and combat this menace.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Outlay for Fishermens Welfare

128. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total outlay for fishermen's welfare in 1997-98;

(b) what was the State-wise allocation for this scheme; and

(c) what was the specific fund spent on model village for fishermen in 1997-98.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) An outlay of Rs. 1430 lakhs was approved for the Centrally Sponsored National Welfare of Fishermen Scheme during 1997-98.